THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as a National Waterway and basic infrastructure facilities such as navigable channel, navigational aids and terminals have been provided there on to facilitate inland water transport.

Proposal for Gopalpur Port in Orissa

1607. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make Gopalpur Port in Orissa as all weather port;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that regard; and

(c) the assistance extended by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) Gopalpur port in Orissa is not a major port. As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for up-gradation/development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Government concerned, which also have administrative control on such ports.

Ship service from Allahabad to Farakka

†1608. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) by when the ship service from Allahabad to Farakka would start functioning on Ganga river from commercial point of view;

(b) the details of the action taken in this direction; and

(c) the details of the cost of this project along with the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad has been declared as a National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.